

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PO, BR

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE REACT TO SPINOLA LETTER

1. REACTING TO PUBLICATION OF SPINOLA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ RELEASED IN PARIS, SPOKESMAN OF PORTUGUESE EMBASSY HERE HAS TOLD PRESS THAT SPINOLA ACTION "MAY CREATE GREATER DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONS" BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND BRAZIL. CALLING LETTER A "DISRESPECTFUL ACT TO BRAZIL", EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD PRESS THAT IT IS BRAZIL'S RESPONSIBILITY NOW TO SEE TO IT THAT INTERNATIONAL NORMS COVERING SPINOLA'S SITUATION ARE COMPLIED WITH. HE WAS FURTHER QUOTED AS STATING THAT SPINOLA "ABUSED BRAZILIAN HOSPITALITY AND IGNORED RESPONSIBILITIES HE HAS UNDERTAKEN WITH BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT".

2. APPEARANCES OF GOB TOLERANCE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY SPINOLA HAS STIMULATED SOME SPECULATION IN PRESS THAT GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PERMIT OR EVEN ENCOURAGE SUCH ACTIVITIES AS RESPONSE TO LISBON'S ACQUIESCENCE IN PROVOCATIVE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY BRAZILIAN DISSIDENTS IN PORTUGAL.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPECIAL ADVISOR TOLD EMBOFF THAT PORTUGUESE HAD SO FAR MADE NO FORMAL PROTEST OF SPINOLA ACTION AND HE EXPECTED NONE, ADDING THAT WHILE GOB HAS PROTESTED FORMALLY ON SEVERAL

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OCCASIONS TO PORTUGUESE ON EXILE ACTIVITIES, OR HOSTILE PRESS

TREATMENT, PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY REGIME HAS NEVER MADE FORMAL PROTEST OF ANY KIND TO BRAZIL. HE COMMENTED THAT ALL THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF REVOLUTIONARY REGIME HAD RESPONDED IN GOOD FAITH TO BRAZILIAN PROTESTS AND MADE HONEST EFFORT TO CURB EXILE ACTIVITIES, BUT ATTITUDE OF PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES AND LACK OF STRONG LINES OF AUTHORITY HAD ABORTED MANY OF THEIR EFFORTS. HE DISCOUNTED SPECULATION THAT SPINOLA ACTION WAS ENCOURAGED BY GOVERNMENT SINCE GOB STILL SEES ITSELF AS HAVING NOTHING TO GAIN AND MUCH TO LOSE IF IT PERMITS PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CONFLICTS TO SPREAD TO BRAZIL. ASKED WHETHER GOB WOULD ADMONISH SPINOLA FOR LETTER, HE SAID THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING POLITICAL ASYLEES, BUT NOTED IN PASSING THAT TECHNICALLY SPINOLA LETTER HAD BEEN RELEASED IN FRANCE RATHER THAN BRAZIL. MFA CHIEF OF NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN DIVISION TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WOULD BE COMMENT FROM GOVERNMENT ON SPINOLA AFFAIR IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT GOB HAS ANY REAL DESIRE TO USE SPINOLA PUBLICLY TO PROVOKE PORTUGUESE AT THIS TIME AND EXPECT IT WILL WANT TO KEEP THIS LATEST ISSUE MUTED WHILE AVOIDING ANY DRASTIC CLAMP

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DOWN ON SPINOLA. GOB MAY USE SOME FORM OF MILD PUBLIC ADMONITION OR OFFICIAL REMINDER OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF POLITICAL ASYLEES AS BEST MEANS OF AVOIDING INCREASINGLY PUBLIC WRANGLE WITH GOB OR ITS BRASILIA REPRESENTATIVES. ANALYSIS CITED BY O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO (NOTORIOUSLY HOSTILE TO RECENT AND CURRENT PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS), HOWEVER, CLAIMED LACK OF GOB REACTION IS UNMISTAKABLE AND DELIBERATE SIGN OF ITS NEGATIVE REACTION TO "LIBERALIZING ATTITUDES" OF GOQ TOWARD BRAZILIAN EXILES' ACTIVITIES. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

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